The Weekly News Letter is published by authority and instruction of the St. Louis Convention of the American Federation of Labor, and is furnished weekly free of cost to all official labor and reform publications.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter, September 14, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

VOL. 3. NO. 29 — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1913. — WHOLE NO. 133

RAILROAD WRECKS.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Recent railroad wrecks with the usual fatalities are selected at random, the following being only a partial list: Two persons were probably fatally injured and more than a score painfully injured near Attica, Ind., when the Continental Limited on the Wabash Railroad, running fifty miles an hour, ran into an open switch and collided with a freight train. The fact that the passenger train was composed of steel cars is believed to have prevented a greater loss of life. Ten persons were seriously injured when the engine and five passenger cars of a Pennsylvania train were derailed at Garland, Pa., fifty miles east of Erie, Pa., the cause of the accident not having been determined. Seven persons were seriously injured when a train on the Erie Railroad, near Warren, Ohio, crashed through a freight train. The wreckage burst into flames and the injured were rescued with difficulty. A passenger train on the Big Four near Columbus, Ohio, was partially derailed and two trainmen probably fatally injured as a result of a collision with a hand car. The engine was completely overturned and the engineer and fireman were caught under the wreckage. A steel car carrying racing horses, which was attached to the train, is credited with having kept the passenger coaches from leaving the rails. Two dead and eight injured, several seriously, was the result of a head-on collision between two Nickel Plate freight trains at Fairview, Pa. The trains met at high speed and nearly all the injured were buried under the wreckage. Twenty persons were injured, four seriously, when the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul east-bound Olympian train was wrecked forty miles west of Forsyth, Mont. The train was traveling at a high speed and every car was ditched. Fifteen passengers were injured when four cars of a passenger train on the New Orleans and Northwestern rolled down an embankment near Winnsboro, La., spreading rails having caused the wreck. By the derailing of a Pennsylvania train on the Philadelphia and Erie Division at Garland, Pa., two express messengers were seriously injured and a number of passengers badly shaken up. The train was ditched in the railroad yards and a broken rail is said to have been responsible.

TENNESSEE LABOR LAWS.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 18.—The recent extra session of the legislature passed a number of labor measures which have been valiantly contended for by the organized workers of the State. There were seven bills in all which passed during the closing hours, when it seemed that there was but little chance to secure any legislation. The laws secured are as follows: A law to regulate and limit all hours of labor of children and females to fifty-eight per week, this law to be effective Jan. 1, 1914, and a fifty-seven-hour limit to become effective January 1, 1915, the children affected under this act to be under sixteen years of age. A law providing supplies for first aid to the injured in all mines of the State; a law providing for organizing and maintaining rescue crews in the mines; a law providing for fire escapes on workshops and factories that are two stories and over in height; a law providing for semi-monthly pay days for corporations and concerns maintaining commissaries; a law providing for the reporting of accidents to the Department of Workshops and Factory Inspection, and to prohibit the use of any part of the report as evidence in the courts except for law violation cases. Another bill passed was that strengthening the child act in conformity with a recent Supreme Court decision.

M'INTYRE GETS SMASHED.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Senator Reed, of Missouri, a member of the Senate Lobby Committe, slapped the face of John McIntyre, of Philadelphia, an official of the National Association of Manufacturers, following an altercation in the Judiciary Committee room at the Capitol recently. Senator Reed, it is claimed, was offended because McIntyre insisted that the Senator had in his possession an affidavit setting forth that Senator Reed had assisted in suppressing the testimony of James J. Reagan in connection with the Mulhall charges. The agents of the National Association of Manufacturers have always acted with great presumption, but the recent investigation and consequent exposure of the methods employed by that delectable band has had the effect of completely discrediting the active spirits of the association. In their distress they have become exceedingly bumptious, and it is quite evident that the agent of the manufacturers referred to exhibited too much authority toward Senator Reed, and received in consequence thereof a physical rebuke.

PRESSMEN HOPEFUL.

San Francisco, Oct. 18.—The Labor Clarion, in its last issue, says: "Another week has passed in the strike of the pressmen and feeders, and the employers are still bemoaning the fact that competent strikebreakers are about as scarce as water in the Desert of Sahara. There are not in all the offices combined enough competent men to properly man one respectable office, and the break from the ranks of the unions that the employers expected 'as soon as funds got low' has failed to materialize. There has not been a single desertion, and this has spread gloom throughout the Franklin Association. Contributions to the strike fund are coming in in sufficient amount to meet all strike benefits, and that this condition of affairs will be continued until the strike is won is assured by the action taken by the Labor Council in requesting affiliated unions to levy a 10-cent per capita weekly assessment."

VIENNA ALARMED.

London, Oct. 18.—Emigration from Austria-Hungary to the United States and Canada is increasing so rapidly that the authorities in Vienna and Budapest are taking steps to check it. The shortage of recruits this year for the armies of the dual monarchy is said to be about 160,000. The farmers are also complaining about the lack of labor, so many able-bodied young men having migrated. It is asserted that more than 90,000 liable for army service are now in Canada, and not one responded to the recent summons to return. The rivalry between the Austro-American and the Canadian-Pacific companies, the latter of which early this year established a service from Trieste, has resulted in more transport facilities and cheaper fares. It is also understood that the Italian government proposes to stop the Italian emigration to America, both North and South, and divert it to Tripoli.

HORSESHOERS ORGANIZE.

Canton, Ohio, Oct. 18.—The Journeymen Horseshoers of this city have organized a union and secured a new scale calling for a minimum wage of $15 a week. Practically all of the owners of the shops have signed the new scale.

WORKING MEN DUPED.

Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 18.—The following is from the Birmingham Labor Advocate: "Information comes through the press that a number of Birmingham workingmen allowed themselves to be duped by extravagant and golden promises made by one Taylor, who was a strikebreaker during the Building Trades' strike in Birmingham, to leave the city and with nothing more than this man's word to assure them, went to New Orleans supposedly to be transported to Argentina, where they were to make fabulous wages. They found that Taylor had played a huge joke on them and left them in New Orleans with nothing in sight but the prospect of paying railroad fare back to Birmingham or some other place. The man Taylor was one of the foremen employed by a construction company on a hotel job, and when the Building Trades strike was called, Taylor was instructed to employ nonunion Carpenters on the job and, notwithstanding the fact that he was a union Carpenter himself, he obeyed orders and worked nonunion men during the strike. When the settlement was made with the union Carpenters Taylor was thrown out of employment and commenced contracting in a small way, but was not successful. Workingmen should always look into advertisements with the utmost care, as many of these 'ads' are inserted for the purpose of procuring men to act as strikebreakers against craftsmen who are asking for better wages and conditions."

CIGARMAKERS' CONFERENCE.

Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 18.—Representatives of the Cigarmakers' Unions, located in the First and Ninth Internal Revenue Districts of Pennsylvania, met here recently for the purpose of formulating demands for an increase in wages throughout Eastern Pennsylvania. The delegates from all points reported that business in the cigar factories is unusually brisk, and that the time is opportune for a raise in the wages of Cigarmakers. It was also reported that several of the manufacturers in the First District have already increased the wages of their employes, and it is the purpose of the organized Cigarmakers to make the increase general, if possible. There has been no material increase in the wages of Cigarmakers in this part of Pennsylvania for many years, and it is felt that the present movement is entirely justified, as trade conditions fully warrant such a move. Even the non-unionists, it was claimed by those in attendance at the conference, are in accord with the present movement and will co-operate with the unions in furthering their demands. In fact, the increasing membership attested by the representatives, indicates that in the near future there will be very few non-union workmen in the great cigar centers of this state. The outlook is better than ever before in the history of the section of the country.

CONSTRUCTION SHOWS INCREASE.

Chicago, Oct. 18.—An increase in building construction in the United States is shown for the first time in several years in statistics gathered from every important city. The figures show a total of 21,361 buildings, costing $64,926,713, under way for the month of September. This is compared with 20,204 new buildings in the same month a year ago, costing $61,901,245. This is a general increase of about 5 per cent, figures for several preceding years having shown a decline in building operations. Chicago leads the nation in the value of buildings in the course of construction, showing an increase of 9 per cent over last year. New York comes next, Boston third, and Philadelphia fourth.

CHILD LABOR IN GEORGIA.

Washington, Oct. 18.—One of the medical journals has this to say: "At least for another year ten-year-old children, who can neither read nor write, will lend their efforts to increasing the fortunes of the cotton-mill owners of Georgia. The Anderson bill, which raised the age limit for working children to thirteen years for 1914 and provided for a further increase to fourteen years in 1915, has been sidetracked in the Legislature, and the session is about to close. Georgia has made practically no advances along this line since 1906. This is not creditable to the traditional chivalry and civilization of the South."

INTERESTING DECISION.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Has a workman who is receiving compensation for injuries the right to refuse to undergo a surgical operation that will restore him to health? This question has been decided in the affirmative by a jury in Geneva, Switzerland. The workman met with an accident and his employer had to pay him compensation for several weeks, but the doctor stated that if he submitted himself to an operation he would be well again in a short time and able to work. The workman, however, feared he would die on the operating table and refused to undergo the operation. The employer has appealed against the verdict.

INJUNCTION RESTORED.

Calumet, Mich., Oct. 18.—The injunction formerly issued against the Copper Miners and later dissolved by Judge O'Brien, has been restored in effect by the State Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, however, modifies the former injunction, the modification permitting peaceful parades and gatherings. That the courts can do no wrong seems to be a mooted question in the State of Michigan, for the history of this injunction shows that one court first issued the injunction, then dissolved it, and then a higher court reinstates the injunction with modifications, thus showing that the opinions of courts in some instances, at least vary, as to their power in issuing injunctions.

STREET CARMEN STRIKING.

Knoxville, Tenn., Oct. 18.—The employes of the local traction system are on strike. It was brought on by the antagonism of the company against organization. In spite of the hostility of the company, the men organized, and the usual tactics followed by traction systems were put into vogue. Practically all the people in the city are walking, the public sympathy being unanimous in favor of the striking street carmen. This sentiment is so complete that nearly every individual seen walking on the streets is wearing a card, printed in large type, "Strike On; I Walk."

EVIDENCE ALL IN.

New York, Oct. 18.—The evidence is all in and arguments have been made before the Arbitration Commission, which is to finally determine the controversy between the Eastern Railroads and their Conductors and Trainmen. A great mass of evidence on both sides has been presented, together with the arguments, and the arbitration commission will at an early date receive an additional brief from each side. Following that the commission will have until October 25 to review the evidence and make its award.

ORIENTALS EVADE LAW.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Information that hundreds of Chinese and Japanese annually enter the country in the guise of students, only to evade the stringent immigration laws, has come into the hands of the commissioner general of immigration. The commissioner, it is stated, is preparing for a thorough investigation of the subject with the end in view of making still more stringent the regulations to prevent this practice. Under the treaties between the United States, Japan, and China, young men and women are permitted to enter this country to study. No time limit is provided for them to complete their work and thus the present regulations are deemed lax upon this matter. It is asserted that hereafter reports of all Chinese and Japanese students will be kept and it will be required that they make periodical reports, indorsed by the various school officials. When the periods of schooling are ended the privilege of remaining in the country will be withdrawn. In numerous cases, it is said, Chinese and Japanese have entered the country as students, attend classes for a week or so, and then feel that they are secure to remain in the country indefinitely.

RESULT OF ORGANIZATION.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Oct. 18.—The Street Car Employes' Union, a young organization, has secured an agreement with the local traction company. R. G. Stewart, editor of the labor paper, The Tribune, says: "Although the union is but young in months, it has been very fortunate in its negotiations. While other organizations that are the backbone of the labor movement have had to wait for years and even a decade before securing any tangible benefits, the members of Division 638 have had the satisfaction of having secured an agreement which provides for a substantial increase in the wage scale and provisions for the adjustment of working conditions by means of a joint conference between the proper committees and the management that will insure industrial peace. Under the terms of the agreement no employe will be discharged for petty reasons or discriminated against in any manner. His union card will insure him the right to appeal to the management, where his case will be presented by his duly chosen representatives in the union. Justice and not prejudice will govern in all cases."

"LAMB AND THE LION."

Washington, Oct. 18.—Petitions purporting to be signed by employes of the United States Steel Corporation, urging the Department of Justice to discontinue its prosecution of the steel trust under the Sherman Anti-Trust Law have been transmitted to the Department of Justice by Representative Burke of Pennsylvania. The petitions declare that the employes are entirely satisfied with the company's treatment. It would be interesting to know how many of these petitioners are recipients of the munificent wage of 17 cents to 20 cents per hour, paid by the trust. The petition casts the same sidelight as did the organization of the Employes and Investors' Association, (now deceased), which was organized at the expense of the various railroad systems, with the evident purpose of dividing the employes of the railroads and decreasing the effectiveness of the recognized brotherhoods.

LIBERAL RESPONSE.

Butte, Mont., Oct. 18.—The Butte unions responded liberally to the appeal of the striking copper miners of Michigan. Aside from the large contributions from the miners' organizations, the miscellaneous crafts have already forwarded $5,550. In addition to amounts already paid in, many unions have levied assessments. The Cooks and Waiters have pledged themselves to donate $100 per month as an organization; the Painters $1 per month each; Plumbers $2 per month each, and the Plasterers $2 per month each. The business men also have subscribed liberally to assist the striking copper miners.

DULUTH ON UPGRADE.

Duluth, Minn., Oct. 18.—President Hall, of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor, has been devoting considerable time to this city. As a result the local movement has taken on a strong upward trend. The State Federation officials organized four unions, and two others are in the process of formation, while all of the unions in the city report a substantial increase in membership. The local labor paper states that organizing work is in such shape at the present time that the local committees, which have been formed, will be enabled to carry it on effectually in the future.

PARCEL POST CHANGE SOUGHT.

Washington, Oct. 18.—To determine whether or not it should acquiesce in a change in the parcel post regulations so that books would be admitted to the mails as parcel post matter, the Interstate Commerce Commission has ordered an investigation. The Postmaster General has asked the commission to consent to the proposed change, but it was decided first to make an investigation. The commission announced that it will receive objections to the proposed change up until October 20, at which time the matter will stand submitted for decision.

WANT SKILLED MEN.

Chicago, Oct. 18.—The Panama Canal is within sight of completion, but, of course, there is a large amount of work of an intricate character yet to be performed. The chief of the appointment division of the Canal Commission is in this city for the purpose of securing the services of high-class Electrical Workers who are familiar with high tension work. The operation of the mechanism on the Canal, that is the locks, and other machinery that requires power to handle, is to be entirely done by electricity.

BRITISH DELEGATES.

Washington, Oct. 18.—The two fraternal delegates from the British Trades Congress to the Seattle Convention of the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Gwynne and Mr. Greenall, accompanied by Mrs. Gwynne, are due to reach New York by the Carmania on October 25. The party will come to Washington and leave for Seattle with the officials of the American Federation of Labor about November 1.

DEMAND WIRELESS.

Washington, Oct. 18.—A cable dispatch from London says that the Executive Council of the National Sailors and Firemen's Union has decided to take a ballot of members of the union on the question whether they are prepared to refuse after May 1, 1914, to ship on board any ocean going craft not equipped with wireless. Seamen of other nations are to be invited to join the movement.

EMPLOYER IS LIABLE.

Washington, Oct. 18.—An employe of a telephone company, who, with other employes of the company, was engaged in putting up wires on a building, was injured by the breaking of the rung of a ladder on which he was standing. It appeared that the rung was made of a piece of board sawed across the grain. The defect was not obvious to a casual observer, but was discoverable by a careful inspection, which was not made. It appeared that ladders for the use of the employes were supplied by the company, but that sometimes, when those were insufficient, the foreman directed the men to borrow such as could be obtained near by, and that the one used by the injured employe had been so borrowed by another workman. The United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held, in the case of Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company vs. Starr, that ladders of unusual length, such as employes of a telephone company are required to use in putting up wires on buildings, are not simple appliances like mechanics' tools, for defects in which employers cannot be held responsible and the risk from which employes assume; that in legal effect the ladder in question was furnished by the telephone company, which was responsible for its condition to the same extent as though it had been furnished from its own supply, and that the question of the employe's assumption of risk was for the jury.

WESTERN COAL STRIKE.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Reports coming in from the Colorado coal strike state that numerous independent mines have made settlements with the United Mine Workers and the miners are back at work. At Trinidad a short time ago five or six shots were fired from a freight train on strikers at Ludlow, and half an hour later nine shots were fired into the White City from the hills above Hastings, but none took effect. The White City referred to is the tents occupied by the striking miners. In the Northern coal fields an injunction prohibits the striking miners from peacefully picketing the mines. It has been arranged that should the striking miners who are doing picket duty be arrested the women and children are to take their places on the picket line. The scheme is that if the operators carry out their plans the men will submit to arrest and go to jail, their places on the picket line being taken by women, who will also submit to arrest and go to jail. Then it is up to the county to take care of the strikers, their wives, and families. That is not a bad idea.

MAINTENANCE MEN.

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 18.—President A. B. Lowe, of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes, states that the representatives of that organization have secured a revision of the schedule, with a fair increase in wages and several improvements in working conditions, on the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railway. The controversy between the trackmen and the Grand Trunk Railway system, which was referred to the Minister of Labor has been closed, the company accepting the award, as also have the employes. Every road in Canada now is working under schedule conditions and practically standard rates, the Maintenance of Way Employes having secured these betterments through the efficacy of their organization.

OLD AGE PENSION.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Representative Lafferty of Oregon has introduced a bill providing pensions for all persons in the United States who have reached the age of sixty years and who have been citizens for at least sixteen years, amounting to $6 a week. The measure asks that an appropriation of $1,000,000 be provided for its first year of operation, and places the task of putting the new law into effect upon the Secretary of the Interior. The law is so framed that it would enable all persons to have incomes of $6 a week, while persons having an income of less than $6 a week would receive an amount sufficient to bring the amount up to that figure.

TO RESUME LOBBY HEARING.

Washington, Oct. 18.—The Senate Lobby Investigating Committee will resume its hearings as soon as possible. The committee intends to hear witnesses regarding the alleged labor lobby and also witnesses on the part the press has had in the lobby. Two members of the lobby committee, Senators Reid and Nelson, are members of the Banking and Currency Committee, which is now engaged in hearings on the currency bill. It is intimated that the report of the Senate Lobby Committee will not be made to the Senate before the latter part of December or some time in January.

CONVICTS BEATEN TO DEATH.

Mobile, Ala., Oct. 18.—Acting on charges of cruelty to convicts made against the Huxford Orvin Naval Stores Company, Gov. Emmet O'Neal has canceled the contract for convict labor held by that firm for the last two years. The thirty-four convicts in the stockade at the camp at Atmore, Ala., were ordered removed to the Mobile jail. Prisoners at this camp made affidavits that men were whipped to death in two instances, and that many prisoners were so badly beaten that they had to lie down to eat.

LIABILITY CONFIRMED.

Washington, Oct. 18.—The Supreme Court of Minnesota held, in the case of Brantman vs. Canby, that where a city undertook to serve both public and private convenience by maintaining a municipal lighting plant to light its streets and also to furnish gas to private consumers it was not exercising a governmental function so as to escape responsibility for negligence in the management of the plant whereby an injury had been caused to the person or property of an individual.

TELEGRAPHERS THREATENING.

Dallas, Texas, Oct. 18.—A strike of the Telegraph Operators over the entire Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway system is threatened. The Operators want a ten-hour day, 10 per cent increase in wages, and pay for overtime. The railroad officials assert that the demands of the men come as a surprise. There are approximately 700 keymen on the line.

STATE FEDERATIONS MEETINGS.

Washington, Oct. 18.—The Illinois State Federation of Labor, the Ohio State Federation of Labor, and the California State Federation of Labor were all in session during the same period recently. At each of these state conventions legislative matters formed the principal topics for discussion and legislation.

SEAMEN'S BILL TO VOTE.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Through the efforts of Senator LaFollette unanimous consent was secured in the Senate to take up the Seamen's Bill, now under the head of unfinished business, on Thursday, October 16, and proceed to its consideration. It was also agreed that this bill should come to a vote not later than 4 o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, October 23. This assures action upon this important measure, and the bill, which is before the Senate, will in all probability be materially amended for the purpose of securing to the seamen rights which have been long withheld from them. As stated in a previous News Letter, the bill reported is not desired by the seamen, but the parliamentary situation allows amendments to be offered and even the substitution of an entire new bill will be permissible. It is apprehended that a majority of the Senate are favorable to the enactment of a law that will give to American seamen the rights and privileges to which they are entitled, and from which they have long been debarred.

BRICKLAYERS REACHING OUT.

Kansas City, Oct. 18.—It has been announced here by one of the officials of the Bricklayers and Masons' International Union that an agreement has been reached with the National Association of Marble Dealers, giving the bricklayers the contract to set all interior stone work for the next five years, except the jobs now under construction. The bricklayers' officials claim that 90 per cent of the marble contractors of the United States are members of the National Association of Marble Dealers and, aside from this, it is also claimed that an agreement has been reached with eight of the principal marble companies of the United States for the exterior marble work. It is further given out that the marble setters must leave their organization and become a part of the bricklayers' union. This opens up an interesting controversy that will not be solved in the immediate future.

MACHINISTS WANT MORE.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Members of the International Association of Machinists employed in the Government Navy Yard in this city were granted on July 1, last, an increase of 7.8 per cent. This increase was secured because the Navy Department accepted the argument presented relative to the high cost of living in the National Capitol. The Machinists now ask that this increase be applied in all navy yards. The basis upon which the wages of employes of the government is determined is the rate of wages paid in civil establishments in the territory in which the government works are located. A wage board is provided for, before which evidence is submitted as to the current wages and the board determines the rate of wages to be paid. Officials of the Machinists are endeavoring to secure a favorable consideration of their demand.

TEXTILE MILLS BUSY.

New York, Oct. 18.—In its last report Dun's Review says: "Adjustment to new conditions results in some irregularity, yet in a broad sense the situation reflects continued improvement. Most reports indicate that the volume of trade is greatly enlarging the necessity of replenishing depleted merchandise stocks, causing increased activity. The paucity of supplies is so marked in certain lines that difficulty is experienced in filling immediate needs, with shortage of labor hampering some manufacturers. This is particularly true of the cotton goods mills which have orders in hand for the next three months."

AFTER FACTORY OWNERS.

Philadelphia, Oct. 18.—Eight employers of labor in this city, charged with violating the Pennsylvania State factory laws, were arrested, had hearings, and were fined recently. In every instance it was charged that the employers had not indicated the ages of certain minors between the ages of fourteen and sixteen on the certificates provided for by law. Other employers who refused to properly safeguard the workers in their factories, and in other ways fully comply with the provisions of the laws relative to working conditions, etc., are being prosecuted by the labor department of the State.

BOILERMAKERS STRIKE.

Newport News, Va., Oct. 18.—The Boilermakers employed by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in the shop department have gone on strike against the establishment of a piece-work system. This matter has been under consideration for a number of weeks, and up to a short time ago it was believed that a contest would be averted and matters adjusted, agreeable to all concerned, but it appears that the company has insisted upon installing the piece-work system.

GET 1914 AGREEMENT.

Newport News, Va., Oct. 18.—The carpenters in this city have already secured an advance in wages for next year. Practically all contractors have signed an agreement with the Carpenters' Union covering the year 1914, in which a minimum rate of wages is established of $3.25 per day. The outlook for the closing of the year 1913 is fairly good, and with the agreement signed for next year the prospects for the movement are splendid.

BAKERS ORGANIZE.

Hamilton, Ohio, Oct. 18.—The Journeymen Bakers in this city have organized a union, and the charter list contains the names of practically all of the bakers in the city. The membership of the other unions have extended to these bakers their assistance, and several of the bake shops have already applied for the use of the union label of the bakers, and it is anticipated that the new union of the bakers will be of material assistance to the movement as a whole.

ASSIGNMENT OF WAGES.

Washington, Oct. 18.—The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts held, in the case of Mutual Loan Company vs. Martell, that no constitutional right to contract was infringed by requiring assignments of future wages to secure small loans, to be accepted by employers in writing, consented to by the wives of the employes and recorded, to be enforcible.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Information comes from Sedalia, Mo., that the recent convention of the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths and Helpers re-elected its officers for the ensuing term. It is stated that the convention was harmonious and that provision was made for another year of active organization and agitation.

UNPROFITABLE POLICY.

Galesburg, Ill., Oct. 18.—That the non-English speaking foreigner has the right to work wherever he can find it, is patent, for no one should be deprived of the opportunity to work, no matter what their nationality. Some employers, however, seek to use foreign speaking workmen to appease their desire for profits, and in doing so bring about situations that are frequently expensive. A casting company in this city has just entailed a loss by fire of approximately $20,000. According to one of the daily papers, the fire was discovered by the night watchman before it had made any considerable progress, but as the watchman could not speak the English language, he was unable to turn in the alarm, and before assistance could be summoned the fire was beyond control, and the plant destroyed. It is asserted that the company has made it a practice to employ foreigners almost exclusively for the reason that they were not familiar with American customs and the American standard of living and could be secured at a much lower rate of wages than American working men. Much criticism has been indulged in by employers in recent years against the methods of labor unions, and the employers have accentuated and emphasized the plea of "efficiency." In this particular instance it is wondered whether the managers of the concern in question are in harmony with the general cry of the employers throughout the country for "efficiency."

JOIN FORCES.

North Yakima, Wash., Oct. 18.—The joint conference between representatives of the State Federation of Labor, Farmers' Union, State Grange and Direct Legislation League, held here recently, will make for a powerful force in the directing of progressive legislation in this State. Two years ago a similar alliance was formed between the organizations named, and under its plan of campaign all candidates for the Legislature were pledged on several legislative measures of mutual interest. A majority of the Legislature signed the pledges, but a number violated them and prevented enactment of some of the measures desired. An initiative law, however, was passed, and under its provisions a comprehensive program of legislation will be submitted to the people at the next election. The voting strength represented by the organizations involved is at least 100,000, and the amalgamation of forces is on a strictly non-partisan basis. Men and measures, not parties, is its chief concern, and the non-partisan character of the alliance was reaffirmed by the recent conference.

SUBMIT 8-HOUR AMENDEMENT.

Pittsburgh, Oct. 18.—Among the constitutional amendments which the voters of Pennsylvania will have an opportunity to vote upon at the November election will be one known as the eight-hour day amendment. It permits the legislature to fix the working hours and conditions of all men or women employed on state or municipal work. The constitution does not now permit the legislature to pass any laws giving the hours of employment. The amendment to be submitted passed the 1911 and 1913 sessions of the legislature. There are at the present time a number of state laws and city ordinances aiming to establish the length of the working day, but it is asserted that if these laws were contested in the courts they would not stand, there not being authority in the constitution for the passage of such measures. The amendment will provide the legislature with power to enforce an eight-hour day upon all contractors employed on state, school, or municipal work.

NEW ENGLAND STAGE HANDS.

Manchester, N. H., Oct. 18.—The third semi-annual convention of the New England District Branch of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes has just been held in this city. The Manchester local union was responsible for the establishing of the New England semi-annual meeting, and it has proven of much benefit to the organization. It gives an opportunity for a general discussion of the affairs of the New England Stage Hands, as well as disseminating information as to the general affairs of that craft throughout this section of the country.

THE PLUMBERS WIN STRIKE.

Houston, Tex., Oct. 18.—The controversy between the journeymen and master plumbers has been settled, and as a result 130 journeymen are back to work. The first difficulty arose when the master plumbers discontinued Saturday morning work, which was termed by the journeymen a lockout. During the progress of the strike the master plumbers advertised extensively for non-union plumbers, but failed to secure the number needed. This had the effect of actuating the master plumbers to seek a conference, which ended in a settlement of the difficulties noted above.

MOVIES IN SCHOOLS.

Cincinnati, Oct. 18.—The school officials are planning to install moving picture shows for all the schools. At the request of the superintendent of schools, the pupils wrote letters to him telling how they passed their leisure time. According to these letters, practically all the boys and girls go to the nickel shows in the evening. The school authorities, therefore, are convinced that the schools should be provided with entertainment of this character.

COOPERS' STRIKE PROGRESSING.

Paragould, Ark., Oct. 18.—The Coopers' strike is favorably progressing, with practically all men in the trade on the strike roll. The Executive Board of the Chamber of Commerce took action to mediate between the owners and the striking coopers, but so far has been unable to secure any concessions from the employers. All the unions are giving loyal assistance to the strikers, and there are but few non-union men at work.

CONSTRUCTION DATA.

Washington, Oct. 18.—The battleship Texas, building at Newport News, Va., is 95.7 per cent completed, and heads the list of vessels now under construction. The New York, being built at the New York Navy Yard, stands second, having advanced to 89.9 per cent toward completion.

WANT AN EDUCATION.

Philadelphia, Oct. 18.—A large number of young men and young women have qualified for admission to the night schools in this city. In fact, the number reaches approximately 25,000, and they are all employed in the shops and factories in and adjacent to the city.

RAILWAY CARMEN.

Kansas City, Oct. 18.—The Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America has just chartered three new lodges, one at Cambridge, Ohio; one at Quanah, Tex., and the other at Thurmond, W. Va.

MEAT SHORTAGE REAL.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Shortage of meat in the United States and the way to increase the supply is discussed by experts in the Department of Agriculture in a special bulletin just issued to the farmers of the country. According to information in possession of the Bureau of Animal Industry there is a decided meat shortage. It is stated by an official of this department that the rise in prices in recent years is the natural result of an actual shortage in production. It is contended that the condition is reflected in the per capita consumption of meat in the United States, which is estimated to have fallen off ten pounds in four years, or from 162 pounds in 1909 to 152 pounds in the fiscal year 1913. The bulletin points out that within the last six years the number of beef cattle in the country apparently has fallen off some 30 per cent, while the population has increased. Department estimates show that the number of beef cattle in the country in January, 1907, was 51,566,000, and at the beginning of the present year only 36,300,000, while the number of dairy cows remained practically stationary. The slaughter of beef, it is set forth, has fallen off approximately 700,000,000 pounds from 1910 to 1913. Meanwhile the country's export trade had greatly fallen off. The bulletin further asserts that there is little hope for exports from Argentina and Australia, because of their great drain by European markets, and that Argentina is already drawing on its live stock reserve. The department says that the farmers of this country have almost unlimited possibilities for live stock production and that all the meat needed could be furnished if the farmers could be shown how to produce it and how to get a ready market. The department urges that the nation's meat supply be increased by a revival of beef cattle raising in the corn belt and its extension in the Eastern States where success depends upon the utilization of pasture and cheap roughage; the use of dual purpose cows on dairy farms, saving the calves for feeders; raising sheep more extensively in the corn belt and Eastern States; increasing hog production on the irrigated farms of the West; increasing production of beef cattle and hogs in the South, "the one section of the United States where cattle still can be raised, fed and sold at a profit of from 5 cents to 6 cents per pound.

CALUMET STRIKE.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 18.—The Daily Mining Journal has this to say anent the copper strike: "It is violating no confidence to say that after two months there is much more strike left in the copper country than the operators two months ago believed would be the case." The Grand Rapids labor paper in commenting on the above expression says: "The above gives in fewer words than we can express it the real situation as it exists in the copper country at the present time. The strike is far from over. A good many papers would have us believe that the strike is practically ended, but such is not the case. The operators are stubborn and refuse to arbitrate, and the miners refuse to return to work until the differences are adjusted. The operators have been circulating a paper, The Coal Dealer, giving a published account of how the miners in West Virginia are losing money by the new agreement they have adopted, yet the facts of the case have not been given. The union men throughout the country are responding liberally to the defense fund to carry on the strike. Already plans have been made to furnish coal for the strikers this winter, and no one on the outside need worry about the miners. Just worry about the operators. They are the ones that will need consolation when the time comes."

INDIANAPOLIS BATTLEGROUND.

Washington, Oct. 18.—The situation in Indianapolis is but little changed. The managers of the traction system are still continuing their tactics of maintaining an army of thugs and gunmen to intimidate their employes and for the purpose of endeavoring to scare the organizers now on the field with the hope that they may leave the city. Even though innumerable assaults have been committed upon certain organizers, these organizers still remain in Indianapolis for the purpose of protecting the best interests of the workmen involved in this controversy. The Employers' Association has developed a bitter feud-provoking war, determined to have its way, irrespective of law, without any consideration for the community. These traction employers assume that they have the right to treat men as they will, but there is being put up a battle against this stand to the end that the men who work shall have the right to have some part in determining the wages they shall receive, the hours they shall work, and with whom they will work. The other unions of the city are giving material assistance in this contest.

SCHOOL FOR CONVICTS.

Jackson, Mich., Oct. 18.—Jackson's prison school for inmates of the penitentiary has been opened. The new superintendent has authority of the State Board of Education to confer diplomas upon inmate graduates. The first eight grades will be started immediately, and the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, and Twelfth grades will be added as soon as necessary examinations can be given. Many of the teachers in the school will be from among the inmates. The warden states that there are a number of inmates who are college graduates and very capable men, and these men will be given charge of the classes.

GALLAGHER ELECTED.

San Francisco, Oct. 18.—At the primary election held recently Andrew J. Gallagher, former secretary of the San Francisco Labor Council, led all other candidates and was elected Supervisor, so that his name will not appear on the ballot at the general election. No other Supervisor candidate was elected. The other card men who qualified for the November election are: John O. Walsh, Charles Nelson, Edward L. Nolan and John J. Burns. John O. Walsh ran next to Gallagher and far ahead of all others.

MACHINISTS' LONG STRIKE.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 18.—The men employed at the Baldwin, Tuttle & Bolton shop have been on strike since April 3 for a nine-hour day, and as yet there has not been a break in their ranks. These men are putting up a valiant fight. It has been the evident plan of the employers to starve the machinists into subjection, but the record already made is evidence that the employers have counted without their host.

ROLLER TOWELS BANISHED.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Roller towels, which have been fixtures for many years in government buildings, have been abolished in the interest of the public health by an executive order of President Wilson. Thousands of individual towels will replace the roller disease breeders.